

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12-14 and 19-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented) A method for collating e-mail comprising:

(a) differencing at least one first e-mail message and a second e-mail message wherein said at least one first e-mail message is prior to said second e-mail message, said differencing generating a set of unmatched text and a set of matched text;

(b) matching said set of matched text against a collated message file, said matching step identifying a position in said collated message file at an end of a portion of said collated message file corresponding to said set of matched text; and

(c) inserting said set of unmatched text in said collated message file at said position;

wherein said at least one first e-mail message and said second e-mail message comprise a set of topically-related e-mail selected in response to a preselected pattern in a header portion of each e-mail of said set of topically-related e-mail;

(d) searching each e-mail message of said set of topically-related e-mail for at least one member of a preselected set of prepended identifiers;

(e) if said at least one at least one member of a preselected set of prepended identifiers matches a portion of said message of said set of topically-related messages:

(i) selecting a portion of said message not having said prepended identifier;

(ii) inserting said portion from substep (i) into said collated message file at a position following a portion matching a set of text having said at least one member of a preselected set of prepended identifiers; and

(iii) bypassing steps (a)-(c).

Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:

(f) extracting said set of text having said at least one member of a preselected set of prepended identifiers;

(g) stripping said at least one member of a preselected set of prepended identifiers from said set of text; and

(h) matching a set of text from step (g) against said collated message file, wherein said position in substep (e)(ii) comprises a position at an end of a portion of said collated message file matching a set of text from step (g).

Claim 7 (original) The method of claim 5 wherein said step of searching each e-mail message of said set of topically-related e-mail comprises searching each e-mail in chronological order of said set of topically-related e-mail.

Claims 8-20 (cancelled)